DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 285 796 SO 018 119

TITLE Art 31: Program of Studies for Senior High Schools.
INSTITUTION Alberta Dept. of Education, Edmonton.
PUB DATE [87]
NOTE 21p.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Guides (For Teachers) (052)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Art Education; *Course Content; *Course Descriptions; *Course Objectives; Course Organization; Courses; Curriculum Guides; Fine Arts; Foreign Countries; High Schools
IDENTIFIERS *Alberta; Canada

ABSTRACT

Art 31, a high school art course entitled "The Contemporary Artifact", examines the impact of international influences and technology on modern art and modern art's impact on society. The basic art education philosophy of the province of Alberta is presented, and the role of the Art Studies program, which emphasizes the student as a perceptive critic, consumer, and historian, is explained. The three consecutive levels of Art Studies, Art 11, 21, and 31, are designed to take students from a consideration of their own experiences with art, through an historical analysis of art forms, to a global investigation of art in contemporary culture. General goals and the scope and sequence of specific objectives for student achievements at each level are highlighted in terms of the function, creation, and appreciation of art. An outline for Art 31 is included which describes specific concepts to be taught within the curriculum themes of the impact of world culture on the purposes of art, the impact of technology on the creation of art, and modern art and society. (JHP)

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Program of Studies for Senior High Schools

ART 31

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PHILOSOPHY

Art education is concerned with the organization of visual material. A primary reliance upon visual experience sets art education apart from the performing arts. Acquiring proficiency in art requires systematic instruction in how we see, interpret and make sense of visual stimuli. It requires an understanding of how others interpret the visual messages which are products of this kind of activity. It requires an education in the use of traditional and contemporary tools, materials and media.

Art education is concerned with having individuals think and behave as artists. For the purposes of art education, the term "artist" is equally valid to describe someone who has created art for a lifetime or someone who is a relative beginner. Ultimately, art is accessible to all individuals. Its practice results in changing the individual, in changing the relationship among individuals or in changing the social-physical environment.

Art education is concerned with pointing out the values that surround the creation and cherishing of art forms. Art is not merely created, it is valued. The relative values given to art products not only tell us about those who produce them, but introduce notions of how values have changed over time. Learning to see gives us the means to view the work of others and perhaps to relate that to our own works. In this case, however, searching for organization may be helped by knowledge about other people's priorities.

Art education deals with ways in which people express their feelings in visual forms. Art takes the human condition as the focus of study. Persons involved in the visual arts reflect upon and externalize their personal feelings and intuitions or those of their fellow human beings. As artists, they share this ability with the writer, the poet and the musician. In making parallels and discovering relationships with the performing and literary arts the student gains a sense of common purpose.

Art education deals with making and defending qualitative judgments about art works. Becoming a perceptive critic attunes the individual to the unique contribution of the artist. By adopting the stance of critic we can develop methods of qualitative differentiation. We gain a sense that not all art is the same, and we are able to articulate reasons for preferring one work over another.

Rationale

Art Studies is a sequence of experiences intended to provide an opportunity for all students to gain knowledge in the discipline of art, with an emphasis on the student as perceptive critic, consumer and historian.

It is recognized that all students at the high school level do not wish to make art, but all should have an opportunity to become knowledgeable about art. Not everyone needs to make art as not everyone needs to write novels or poems; yet as they enjoy reading, so they can enjoy art. As a need can be seen for informed members of society to be able to comprehend and appreciate written information, so a case can be made for a need to understand images.

The courses in the Art Studies program would enable students to achieve a greater level of cultural understanding of the creation of art--developing critical skills, and an appreciation of the role of art and artists in historical and contemporary society. The three consecutive levels of Art Studies are designed to take students from consideration of their own experiences with art, through an historical analysis of art forms, to a more global investigation of art in contemporary culture.

Art 11

THIS COURSE SURVEYS THE ROLE OF THE ARTIFACT IN EVERYDAY LIFE. STUDENTS WILL CONSIDER PREDOMINANT THEMES CONVEYED BY ART FORMS. THEY WILL ALSO CONSIDER THE ROLE OF THE ARTIST AND THE ARTIST'S USE OF MATERIAL AND PROCESSES, METHODS OF CRITICAL ANALYSIS, AND UNDERSTANDING OF PEOPLE'S VARIED APPROACHES TO APPRECIATING ART WORKS. THIS COURSE EMPHASIZES THE STUDENT'S IMMEDIATE CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT.

Art 21

THIS COURSE SURVEYS THE HISTORY OF ART IN WESTERN CULTURE. IT EXAMINES CHANGES IN THE FUNCTION OF ART, IN THE ROLE AND INFLUENCE OF ARTISTS, AND IN CULTURE, ALL OF WHICH EFFECT CHANGES IN ARTIFACTS OVER TIME. IT EMPHASIZES THE CHANGING VIEW OF ART THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

Art 31

THIS COURSE EXAMINES THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY ON MODERN ART AND, IN TURN, MODERN ART'S IMPACT ON SOCIETY. IT EMPHASIZES THE CONTEMPORARY POINT OF VIEW OF SOCIETY.

GENERAL GOALS — ART STUDIES 11, 21, 31

FUNCTION

1. The student will understand that art serves various symbolic, descriptive and decorative purposes in society.
2. The student will understand that the role, form and value of art differ through time and across cultures.
3. The student will understand that art reflects and shapes cultural character.

CREATION

1. The student will understand the role of the artist in the creation of artifacts.
2. The student will understand the role of culture in the creation of artifacts.
3. The student will investigate the concept of style as it affects the creation of artifacts.
4. The student will become aware of how artists work with the components of artifacts: media, techniques and visual elements.

APPRECIATION

1. The student will develop a personal approach to the appreciation of artifacts.
2. The student will analyze the affective power of artifacts over time and across cultures.
3. The student will analyze personal and societal responses to visual imagery.

FOCUS

FUNCTION

What are the ways visual imagery is used to express, shape and reflect the values, beliefs and conflicts in society?

CREATION

How are the achievements of artists in the past and present identified, including the particular ways they engage in expressive activity?

APPRECIATION

How can the student be given opportunities to perceive and respond to visual qualities in works of art?

Function of Art

WHAT ARE THE WAYS VISUAL IMAGERY IS USED TO EXPRESS, SHAPE AND REFLECT THE VALUES, BELIEFS AND CONFLICTS IN SOCIETY?

ART 11: THE POWER OF THE ARTIFACT

FUNCTION: PURPOSE OF ARTIFACTS

STUDENTS WILL

- consider artifacts which convey different themes, meanings, beliefs and values of people in various times and cultures
- become aware of the use of artifacts for describing and recording phenomena
- become aware of the function of artifacts for the visual enhancement of people and their environment

ART 21: TIME EVOLUTION OF THE POWER OF ART

FUNCTION: THE CHANGING ROLE OF ART IN SOCIETY

STUDENTS WILL

- observe the changes in symbols and their meaning in art over time
- consider the changing values placed on different art forms over time
- identify changes over time in the ways people use art
- consider the emerging value of historic artifacts

ART 31: THE CONTEMPORARY ARTIFACT

FUNCTION: THE IMPACT OF WORLD CULTURE ON THE PURPOSE OF ART

STUDENTS WILL

- consider sources of changing purpose and imagery in the art of our time
- consider the subjective and expressive currents in the art of our time
- consider the rational-formalist currents in art in our time
- consider the impact of technology on the purposes of art

Creation of Art

HOW ARE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ARTISTS IN THE PAST AND PRESENT IDENTIFIED, INCLUDING THE PARTICULAR WAYS THEY ENGAGE IN EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITY?

ART 11: THE POWER OF THE ARTIFACT

CREATION OF ARTIFACTS

STUDENTS WILL

- consider the nature of artists' styles and their effect on the character of artifacts
- consider the characteristic styles attributed to various cultures and historic periods as they affect the way that the culture or period is identified
- learn how artists work with media and acquire the ability to distinguish materials and processes used in various kinds of artifacts
- observe how artists achieve different effects using the elements and principles of composition

ART 21: TIME EVOLUTION OF THE POWER OF ART

CREATION: THE CHANGING PROFESSION OF THE ARTIST

STUDENTS WILL

- investigate the role and influence of artists on their societies in different eras
- consider the development of patronage as a factor in the role of the artist
- examine and compare a series of works developed over a period of time by a particular artist

ART 31: THE CONTEMPORARY ARTIFACT

CREATION: THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE CREATION OF ART

STUDENTS WILL

- observe the impact of technology on the creation of artifacts
- consider the impact of technology on the style and role of the artist

Appreciation of Art

HOW CAN THE STUDENT BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO PERCEIVE AND RESPOND TO VISUAL QUALITIES IN WORKS OF ART?

ART 11: THE POWER OF THE ARTIFACT

APPRECIATION: ANALYZING THE POWER OF ARTIFACTS

STUDENTS WILL

- be able to describe and characterize visual features of artifacts, such as subjects, media and design
- be able to analyze relationships among the visual features of artifacts, e.g., subject, medium and design, and to derive meaning from this analysis
- consider how past experience influences personal reactions to a work of art
- analyze what makes an artifact powerful over time and across cultures
- become aware of the range and variety of forms of artistic expression

ART 21: TIME EVOLUTION OF THE POWER OF ART

APPRECIATION: THE CHANGING FORM OF ART IN SOCIETY

STUDENTS WILL

- compare art styles in different historical periods
- compare aesthetic standards as they have changed over time
- investigate changes in subject matter and sources of imagery over time

ART 31: THE CONTEMPORARY ARTIFACT

APPRECIATION: MODERN ART AND SOCIETY

STUDENTS WILL

- examine how contemporary society acquires, appreciates and preserves artifacts
- analyze various aspects of the modern artistic community
- investigate the possibility of a characteristic Canadian style

ART 31: THE CONTEMPORARY ARTIFACT

THIS COURSE EXAMINES THE IMPACT OF INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCES AND MODERN TECHNOLOGY ON MODERN ART, AND IN TURN, MODERN ART'S IMPACT ON SOCIETY. IT EMPHASIZES THE CONTEMPORARY POINT OF VIEW OF SOCIETY.

THE IMPACT OF WORLD CULTURE ON THE PURPOSES OF ART

FUNCTION 1

STUDENTS WILL CONSIDER SOURCES OF CHANGING PURPOSES AND IMAGERY IN THE ART OF OUR TIME.

Concepts

A. Interest in non-Western and primitive cultures has provided new sources of imagery for twentieth century art.
B. Modern attention to the inner self has provided new sources of imagery and purpose for the making of art.
C. Mass communication has affected the purpose of art in our time.
D. The modern city is a new source of imagery for twentieth century art.
E. The Canadian landscape has been an important source of imagery for Canadian artists of the twentieth century.

FUNCTION 2

STUDENTS WILL CONSIDER THE SUBJECTIVE AND EXPRESSIVE CURRENTS IN THE ART OF OUR TIME.

Concepts

A. Artists challenge reason and reality with fantastic and enigmatic images.
B. Artists strive to convey intuitive and spiritual elements in expressionist works.

FUNCTION 3

STUDENTS WILL CONSIDER THE RATIONAL-FORMALIST CURRENTS IN ART IN OUR TIME.

Concepts

A. Artists have explored the properties of light and colour in abstract minimalist works.
B. Machine-like precision, mechanization, speed and power have been the subjects of some modern works.
C. Pop art and super-realism represent the artist's attempt to extend the traditional concepts of painting and sculpture.

FUNCTION 4

STUDENTS WILL CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE PURPOSES OF ART.

Concept

A. Science and technology have provided new symbols and reasons for making art.

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE CREATION OF ART

CREATION 1

STUDENTS WILL OBSERVE THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE CREATION OF ARTIFACTS.

Concepts

A. Skilled use of precision tools and machines affects the design of art works.
B. Availability of new media influences the ways in which artists work.
C. New processes encourage innovative image-making.

CREATION 2

STUDENTS WILL CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE STYLE AND ROLE OF THE ARTIST.

Concept

A. Changing communications media have enlarged the role of the artist.

MODERN ART AND SOCIETY

APPRECIATION 1

STUDENTS WILL EXAMINE HOW CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY ACQUIRES, APPRECIATES AND PRESERVES ARTIFACTS.

Concepts

A. Modern society values the preservation and display of art works for public appreciation.
B. Individuals collect art for a variety of reasons and in a variety of ways.
C. Modern commerce has had a substantial effect on the ownership and valuing of artifacts in contemporary society.

APPRECIATION 2

STUDENTS WILL ANALYZE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE MODERN ARTISTIC COMMUNITY.

Concept

The modern artist's relationship with society is conditioned by many mediating institutions and agencies.

APPRECIATION 3

STUDENTS WILL INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHARACTERISTIC CANADIAN STYLE.

Concept

The question of a characteristic Canadian style is a frequent theme in Canadian art, literature and criticism.

IMPLEMENTATION

Art 11 and 21 may be offered for 3, 4 or 5 credits.
Art 31 may be offered for 5 credits only.

RESOURCES

Art 31

BASIC RESOURCES

1. ART 31 SLIDE SET

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

1. VISIONS: ARTISTS AND THE CREATIVE PROCESS, complete set of thirteen videotapes, Viewer's Guide, Teacher's Guide (Post Secondary Guide), and Teacher's Resource Kit, TV Ontario, 1983. Tapes and print material available through ACCESS NETWORK.